

PARISH ENVIRONMENT GROUP
2020/2021 Update by Wickham Market Parish Environment Group
(Tree Warden and Green Gym events)

We have continued to organise occasional small work parties with basic measures in place for Covid. Work parties have been either limited in number or numbers of people due to Covid, however many people have been keen to get outside, exercise and chat in the open air. We have had valuable support from volunteers and more interest from families and young people who may get involved later 2021.

We are always in need of more support from our local people for all environmental projects, helping to enhance the village and do our small part in nurturing wildlife.

This report highlights the key ongoing project areas and work undertaken in 2020/2021.

1 SPORTS FIELD, THONG HALL LANE

The west boundary tree/hedge line alongside field continues to be tended with more trees added. The planting here is looking really good and is now providing valuable landscape greenery and wildlife corridor linkage to/from the village. a similar approach could be taken on the new allotment frontage where some hedge/trees are needed to give some shelter and screening. (to align with the NP).

2 WICKHAM MARKET CEMETERY

We continue work in the cemetery to keep it looking beautiful. Jobs over the last year have included new oak 'gate' posts, new signs, tree management and planting. Dealing with the collapsed oak, filling in resulting gaps on the south boundary with hazel. Removing plastic tree tubes.

Norse have commenced active rabbit control, but rabbit numbers are still somewhat problematical and they do cause trees, headstones/kerbs, flowers, grass sward and bulb areas. That said the snowdrops and daffodils have looked a picture this winter/spring in several areas of the cemetery.

3 CHAPEL LANE

We completed our new planting project of 22 oak trees with field maple, hazel and hawthorn along the track across to Sandy Lane. Funded by SCC and supported by James Hayward, Landowner. These small tree groups will provide a high tree line visible from various parts of the village; BUT patience will be needed! We were told by local people, when planting that the track was once adorned with elm and other native trees.

4 DALLINGHOO ROAD

The line of 15 Oak planted along this road in 1999 were pruned vigorously by a small band of volunteers in January, up and over the road to give good clearance. All arisings have been collected up.

5 HIGH STREET SOUTH OF THE VILLAGE INTO PETTISTREE

The avenue of mixed trees have been tended. These trees are generally maturing well and are ever more important as development pressure on the area increases. We still await to find out what trees will be lost for the Pettistree development access.

6. BIRD BOX PROJECT

Rodney West and Maggie Grenham are now monitoring and checking some 45 boxes erected by Terry Peake:

*'Both myself (MG) and Rodney West have cleaned out over 45 bird nest boxes, repaired as needed, added new metal hole protectors and taken photos. Which were originally made, erected and monitored, by Terry Peake.
The boxes can be found in; Wickham Market cemetery, Wickham Market All Saints churchyard, Pettistree churchyard, the SX breeding season. And as a final note there is room for more boxes to go up, if anyone (the school?) wishes to make any.
We can supply specifications and will erect'.*

7. COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP

Sonya Exton has been organising village **Community Clean-ups** but these have been undertaken by individuals, supplied with grabbers and bags, this last year rather than larger groups. A spring clean might be needed. We are aware of much plastic 'tree' waste which also needs collecting and will aim to encourage landowners to undertake this themselves.

With our own plantings tubes are generally removed when no longer needed. The village handyman helps on the playing field and the FC will be contacted regarding children littering the football and area and leaving rubbish.

Rubbish and litter is an increasing problem to the health of our local environment and wildlife in particular. Let's fight to make this a totally unacceptable behaviour and keep it under control.

Can you help us with any of these activities or projects, either out in the field or behind the scenes!?

If so PLEASE come forward!

Anne Westover

Sonya Exton

Final report 11th April 2021